Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know the difference between Ernakulam and Alleppey and Ernakulam and Cochin? For 42 miles 4 annas and for 2 miles 1 anna.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—But that is not under Government. But they are run by private companies, and if there is competition, they may raise it to Rs. 2. There is nothing to control them. Here we run on fixed rates.

President.—The answer should be like that.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Thus, conditions are different.

President.—We are not responsible for the rates fixed by them

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—They have nothing to pay to anybody. Here the contractor has to pay to the Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Have you nothing to do with the fixing of rates of the other companies?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—No. These rates came into existence long before these private agencies began to run their boats.

Mal-treatment of certain muslims by the Police.

392. **Mr. K Mohamed Seethi.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are in receipt of petitions from some Muslims of Ernakulam and Panangad complaining of mal-treatment by a posse of Policemen under the Inspector of the Cusba Police Station, Ernakulam, and unlawful custody;

(b) will the Government kindly say what the allegations and the prayers in the petitions were;

(c) will the Government be pleased to state what action was taken on those petitions in view of the grave allegations made therein;

(d) if any action was taken on them, will the Government kindly say when it was;

(e) will the Government kindly state the upshot of the investigation, if any, made by them;

(f) will the Government be pleased to state whether the alleged victims of the Police outrage were subsequently charge-sheeted by the Ernakulam Cusba Police;

(g) if the answer to (f) is in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state when the Police laid the charge?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The allegations were that they were unlawfully arrested and detained.

(c) The petitions were kept pending enquiry as the matter

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was already under investigation in connection with crime No. 6 of 1104 of Ernakulam Cusba.

(d) No reply is necessary in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) The investigation disclosed an offence under sections 129, 133, 427 and 359, C. P. C., against the petitioners.

(f) Yes.

(g) On 31st Kanni 1104.

Nominal Muster Roll for coolies.

393. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to answer:—

(1) who is to keep the Nominal Muster Roll for coolies engaged in departmental works;

(2) is not the roll checked by the Divisional Assistant Engineer or Overseers under them, periodically or otherwise and is such checking recorded by affixing their initials at least in these rolls;

(3) is it not necessary that the officer who keeps or maintains the Muster Roll must be present always at the workspot;

(4) will the Government give any value or significance or otherwise give any credit to the Muster Roll written up by one who is not in direct charge of the work or who is not always at the workspot?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) By any subordinate of the Department deputed for the purpose.

(2) Yes, if found necessary.

(3) They are expected to be at the workspot as far as possible.

(4) The answer to the former part of the question is in the negative and to the latter part in the affirmative.

Appointment in State Service.

394. Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Government kindly answer what all Departments there are in the State Service in which any subject of His Highness is prohibited from holding office on account of his caste or religion?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Member is referred to Standing Order No. 10. Caste or religion entails no disability for service in the State. Appointments in the Devaswam Department can, however, be held only by caste-Hindus while those in the Nayar Brigade are reserved to the members of the Nayar community.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Are not the appointments under the Devaswam Department considered under the State Service?

President.—It is answered here.

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